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(54) Title: **METHODS OF PREDICTING MORTALITY RISK BY DETERMINING TELOMERE LENGTH**

(57) Abstract: The present invention provides for methods of determining telomere length of an organism and correlating the measured telomere length with mortality risk associated with telomere length in a population. The presence of shorter telomeres is associated with an increased mortality rate and increased susceptibility to certain types of diseases for an individual member of a human population.

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